

# **African American History Month programs among 18 special events sponsored by the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs during February 2015**

(DOVER, Del.—Jan. 14, 2015)—During the month of February 2015, the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs will be offering 18 special events at sites across the state. Twelve of these events will be presented in commemoration of African American History Month, an annual observance celebrating the invaluable contributions that the black community has made to the culture and history of the United States. Unless otherwise indicated, events are free and open to the public. For additional information, call 302-744-5055.



Dr. Gregory Scott will speak at The Old State House on Feb. 7 and 28, 2015.

Highlights of the month include “Celebrating Love and Family:

'The Roots of an African-American Family and Community—Star-Hill and the Gibbs Family Legacy,' " a lecture by former Delaware State University professor Dr. Gregory Scott about his research on the previously unknown history of Star-Hill, a black community in Kent County that began in the 1880s. The program will also feature former state Rep. Donald Blakey reading original poetry by Solomon Gibbs, a former resident and leader of Star-Hill. The program will take place at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 7 at [The Old State House](#) located at 25 The Green, in Dover.

On Saturdays, Feb. 7, 21 and 28, the [John Dickinson Plantation](#), located at 340 Kitts Hummock Road in Dover, will offer special tours exploring the lives of African-Americans who lived in slavery and servitude at the home of John Dickinson, one of the founding fathers of the United States and "Penman of the Revolution."

Finally, on Saturday, Feb. 21, between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., the [Johnson Victrola Museum](#), located at 375 S. New St. in Dover, will present "Celebrating Love and Family: 'The Story of Fats Waller,' " guided tours that focus on the life and achievements of the noted jazz musician, accompanied by Waller's Victor recordings played on authentic Victor Talking Machines.



"Celebrating Love and Family: 'The Story of Fats

Waller' " will take place at the Johnson Victrola Museum on Feb. 21, 2015.

### **Special events, February 2015**

**Note:** Recent program changes are highlighted in brown.

#### **Friday, Feb. 6, 2015**

**Concert by Bruce Anthony.** Jazz guitarist. Presented in partnership with the [Delaware Friends of Folk](#). [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. Program at 7:30 p.m. Museum open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5055.

#### **Saturday, Feb. 7, 2015**

**"Celebrating Love and Family: 'Paul Robeson's Family Ties and Contributions.' "** African American History Month tours focus on the biography and family of bass vocalist Paul Robeson, and his achievements and political views as they pertain to his struggle as a 20th-century black artist. The program will feature Robeson's Victor recordings played on authentic Victor Talking Machines. [First Saturday in the First State](#) program. [Johnson Victrola Museum](#), 375 S. New St., Dover. 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5055.

#### **Saturday, Feb. 7, 2015**

**"Celebrating Love and Family: 'Follow the Drinking Gourd.' "** African American History Month program for children Pre-K through 2nd grade focuses on Delaware's involvement in the Underground Railroad and its many heroes who helped enslaved people escape to freedom. [First Saturday in the First State](#) program. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. Program at 11 a.m. Museum open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5055.

#### **Saturday, Feb. 7, 2015**

**"A World Apart."** African-American-history-based tours. Learn about Dinah and her family and their journey from enslavement to freedom. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts

Hummock Road, Dover. Program 11 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

**Saturday, Feb. 7, 2015**

**“Celebrating Love and Family: ‘The Roots of an African-American Family and Community–Star-Hill and the Gibbs Family Legacy.’ ”** Lecture by Dr. Gregory Scott about his research on the previously unknown history of Star-Hill, an African-American community in Kent County that began in the 1880s. The program will also feature former state Rep. Donald Blakey reading original poetry by Solomon Gibbs, a former resident and leader of Star-Hill. [First Saturday in the First State](#) program. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. Program at 1 p.m. Museum open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5055.

**Saturday, Feb. 14, 2015**

**“Follow the Drinking Gourd.”** Interactive program for children Pre-K through 2nd grade focuses on Delaware’s involvement in the Underground Railroad and its many heroes who helped enslaved people escape to freedom. Partnership between the Dover Public Library and the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs. [Dover Public Library](#), 35 Loockerman Plaza, Dover. 2 p.m. 302-736-7030.

**Saturday, Feb. 14, 2015**

**“John Dickinson’s 207th Remembrance Day.”** Program commemorating the death of John Dickinson explores 18th century mourning practices including a letter written in Dickinson’s memory by then President Thomas Jefferson. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Wreath laying ceremony at Samuel Dickinson’s gravesite at Noon. Program 11 a.m.–2 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

**Saturday, Feb. 14, 2015**

**“Celebrating Love and Family: ‘Finding African American Families in Kent County–1830–1860.’ ”** Interactive workshop

about recent research into the lives of 19th-century African Americans residing in Kent County, Del. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. Workshop 1–3 p.m. Museum open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Inclement weather date: March 14, 2015. Free admission but, due to space restrictions, reservations are required by calling 302-744-5055.

### **Saturday, Feb. 14, 2015**

**Demonstrations by the Thistledown Fiber Arts Guild.** Program explores spinning, weaving, knitting and other fabric arts. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Program 1–3 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

### **Saturday, Feb. 14, 2015**

**“Delaware’s Decades—the 1990s.”** ~~Program description TBA.~~ Don Voltz, executive director of the [Delaware Sports Museum and Hall of Fame](#), will discuss the planning and creation of the museum and its inductees. Part seven of an eight-part series exploring decades in Delaware’s history. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. Program at 2 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Free admission but, due to space restrictions, reservations are required by calling 302-645-1148 no later than Feb.2, 2015. **Note updated program information.**

### **Friday, Feb. 20, 2015**

**“McLane and Washington.”** Living-history theatrical performance by Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs historical interpreter Tom Welch exploring the relationship between General George Washington and Col. Allen McLane, the Revolutionary War hero from Duck Creek (Smyrna, Del.). Partnership between the division and the Dover Public Library. [Dover Public Library](#), 35 Loockerman Plaza, Dover. 7 p.m. 302-736-7030.

### **Saturday, Feb. 21, 2015**

**“Celebrating Love and Family: ‘Follow the Drinking Gourd.’ ”** African American History Month program for children Pre-K

through 2nd grade focuses on Delaware's involvement in the Underground Railroad and its many heroes who helped enslaved people escape to freedom. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. Program at 11 a.m. Museum open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5055.

**Saturday, Feb. 21, 2015**

**"Stories of Runaway Slaves."** African-American-history-based tours. Learn about three runaway slaves and how they escaped from St. Jones Neck. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Program 11 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

**Saturday, Feb. 21, 2015**

**"Celebrating Love and Family: 'The Story of Fats Waller.' "** African American History Month tours focus on the life and achievements of the noted jazz musician, accompanied by Waller's Victor recordings played on authentic Victor Talking Machines. [Johnson Victrola Museum](#), 375 S. New St., Dover. Program 1–3 p.m. Museum open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5055.

**Friday, Feb. 27, 2015**

**"A Taste of Buena Vista."** Tour one of Delaware's most historic houses and enjoy hors d'oeuvres and coffee accompanied by harp music. [Buena Vista Conference Center](#), 661 S. Dupont Highway (Route 13), New Castle. 6–9 p.m. Admission \$5 in advance by reservation through the Shop Delaware website (go to <http://shop.delaware.gov> and click the "events" link). 302-323-4430.

**Saturday, Feb. 28, 2015**

**"Celebrating Love and Family: 'Follow the Drinking Gourd.' "** African American History Month program for children Pre-K through 2nd grade focuses on Delaware's involvement in the Underground Railroad and its many heroes who helped enslaved people escape to freedom. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. Program at 11 a.m. Museum open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

302-744-5055.

**Saturday, Feb. 28, 2015**

**"A World Apart."** African-American-history-based tours. Learn about Violet Brown and read her recollections. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Program 11 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

**Saturday, Feb. 28, 2015**

**"Celebrating Love and Family: 'The African-American Family in Slavery and Freedom—A Celebration of Love.' "** Lecture by Dr. Gregory Scott on Herbert Gutman's book "The Black Family In Slavery and Freedom: 1750–1925." [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. Program at 1 p.m. Museum open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5055.

**Exhibits, February 2015**

In addition to special programming, the following exhibits are on display at Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs museums.

**Note:** Recent program changes are highlighted in brown.

**Ongoing**

**"[Delaware and the War of 1812](#)."** Exhibit examines the service and sacrifice of Delawareans of 1812 to 1815, and the important role that the state played in a conflict that helped shaped the development of the United States. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; ~~Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m.~~ from Nov. 1–March 31. Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. from April 1–Oct. 31. 302-645-1148. **Note correction to museum hours.**

**Ongoing**

**"[Emeline Hawkins: Her Journey From Slavery to Freedom on the Underground Railroad](#)."** Exhibit chronicles the compelling story of Emeline Hawkins and her family and their 1845



odyssey on the Underground Railroad from slavery in Maryland, through Delaware to freedom in Pennsylvania. [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St., New Castle. Mon.–Sat., 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Sun., 1:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-323-4453.



Section of the exhibit, “Emeline Hawkins: Her Journey From Slavery to Freedom on the Underground Railroad,” on display at the New Castle Court House Museum.

### **Ongoing**

**[“A Seaborne Citizenry: The DeBraak and Its Atlantic World.”](#)**

Exhibit utilizes artifacts recovered from His Majesty’s Sloop of War DeBraak, a British warship that sank off the Delaware coast on May 25, 1798 to tell the story of the vessel, its crew and the historical context within which it operated in the Atlantic World of the late 18th century. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; ~~Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m.~~ from Nov. 1–March 31.



Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. from April 1–Oct. 31. 302-645-1148. **Note correction to museum hours.**

### **Ongoing**

**“[Simple Machines](#).”** Exhibit demonstrating the six “simple machines”—incline ramp, screw, wedge, pulley, lever and wheel—that constitute the elementary building blocks of which many more-complicated machines are composed. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

**-End-**

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